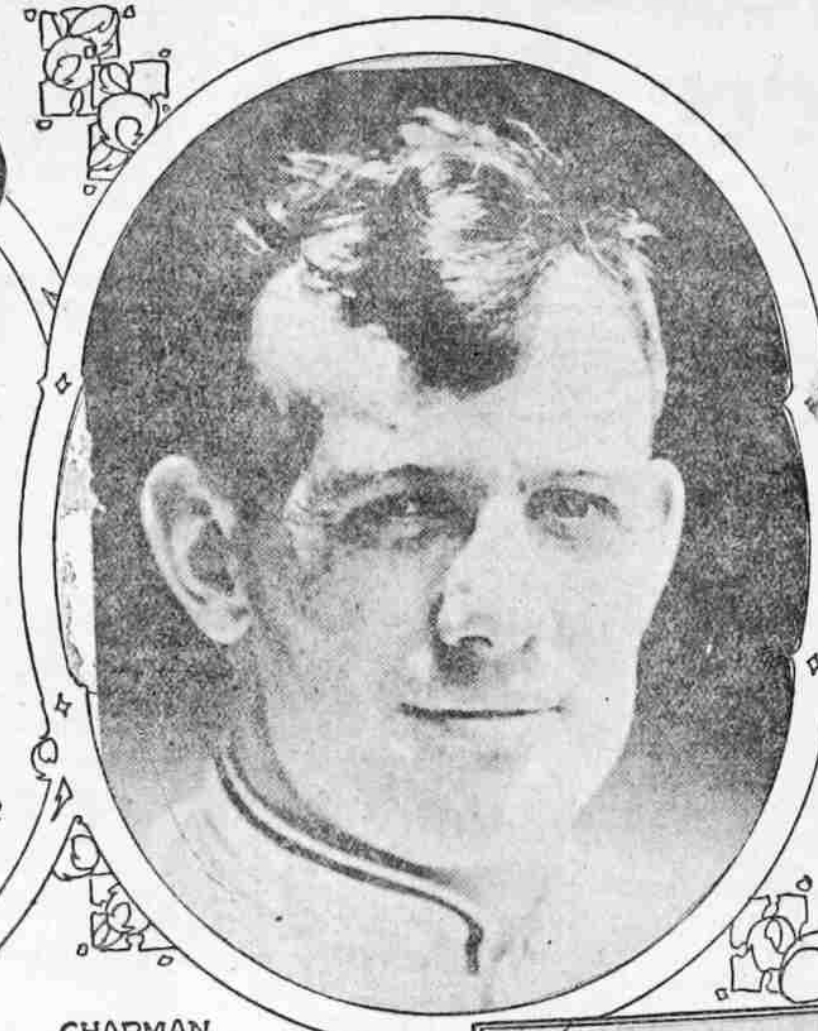
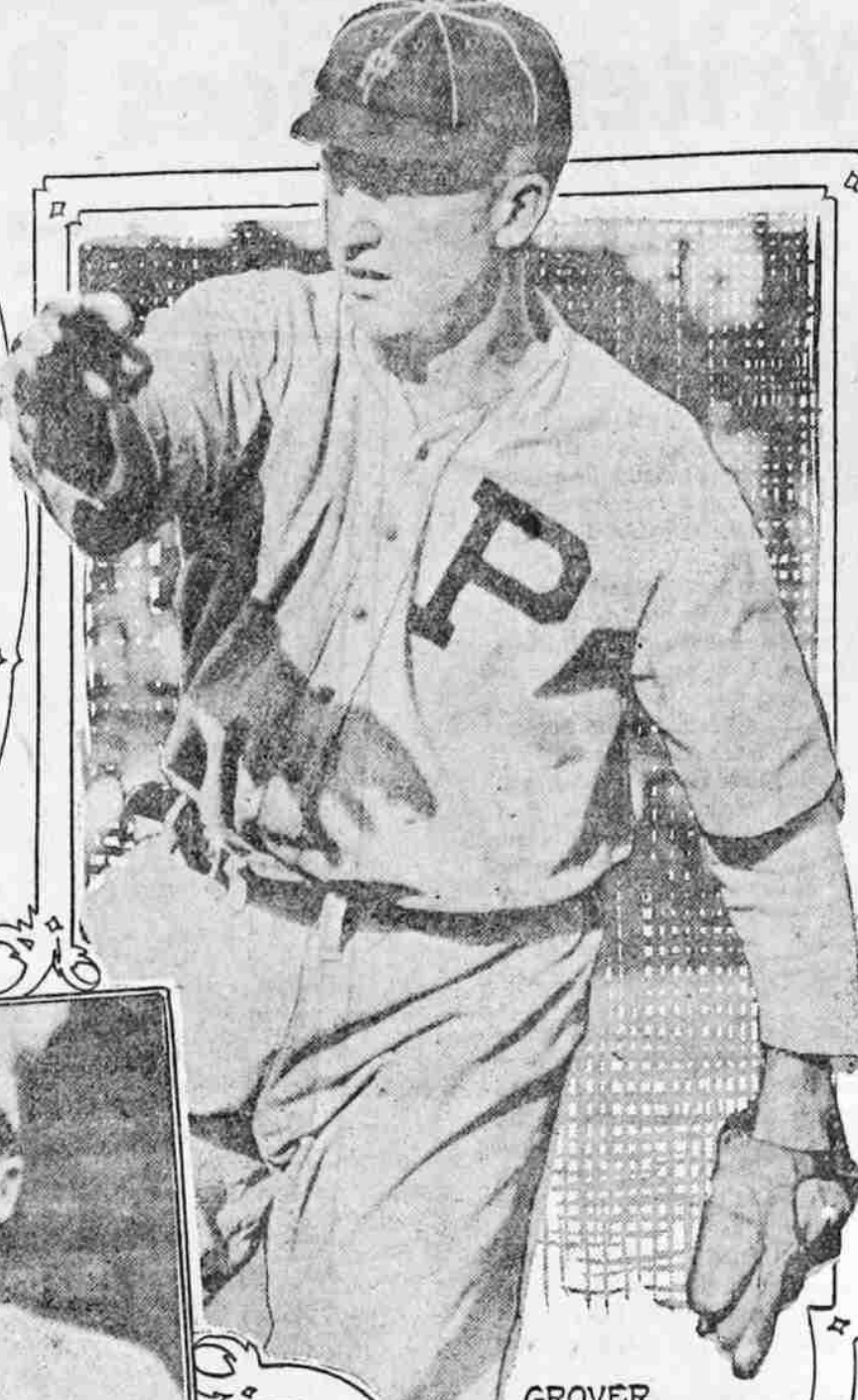
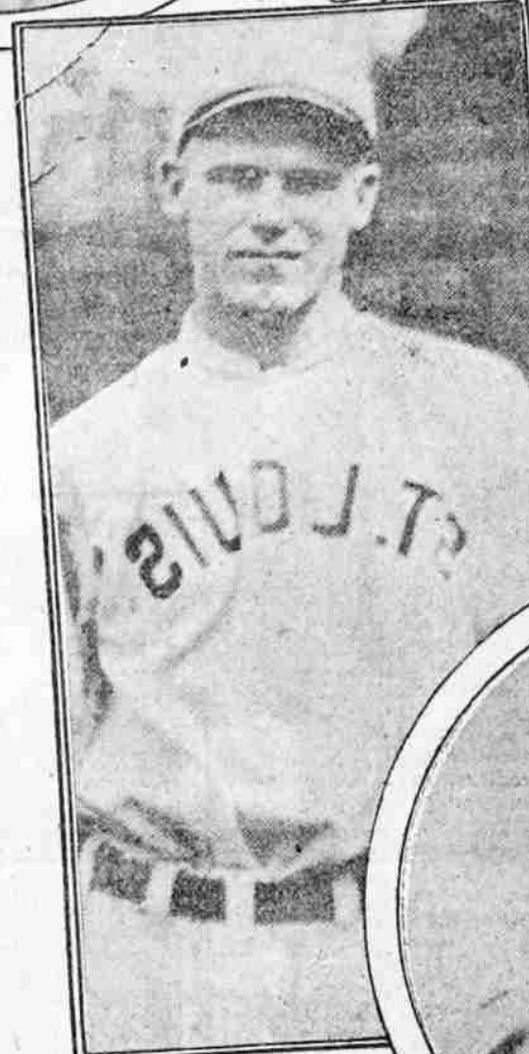


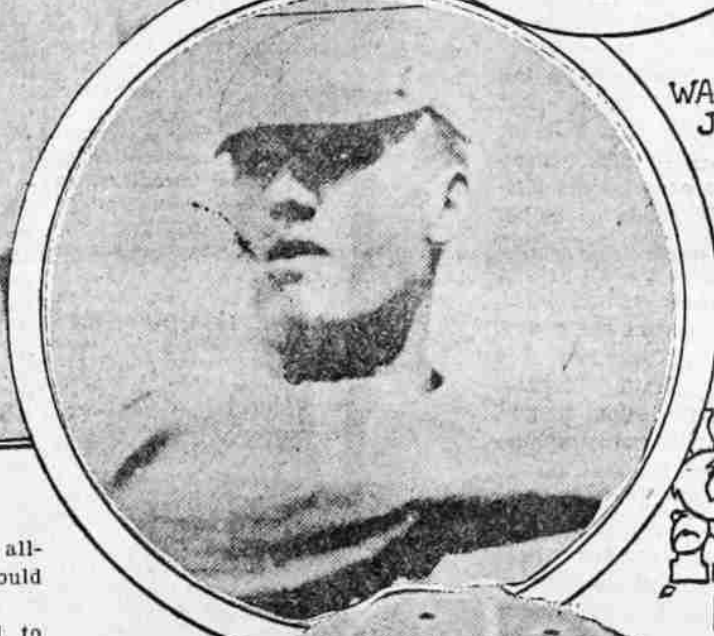
# Picking the All-American Baseball Team for the Fans

TRIS  
SPEAKER

CHAPMAN

GROVER  
CLEVELAND  
ALEXANDERTY  
COBB

GEORGE SISLER

WALTER  
JOHNSON

EDDIE COLLINS

## SHERIDAN'S ALL-AMERICA TEAM SELECTIONS.

E. Collins, 2b, American.  
Burns, 1. f., National.  
Cobb, c. f., American.  
Speaker, c. f., American.  
Chapman, s. s., American.  
Sisler, 1b, American.  
Groh, 3b, National.  
Killifer, c., National.  
Mays, p., American.  
Alexander, p., National.

Recapitulation—American League, six players; National League, four players. Cleveland, with Speaker and Chapman, and Philadelphia, with Killifer and Alexander, each get two players on team. No other club gets more than one player on team.

BY J. B. SHERIDAN.

**P**ICKING the all star baseball team is an annual duty. Not that it counts for much. It does not. The all-star team is merely an expression of individual opinion. Some selectors say that they make choice on figures, on performances as recorded in the averages, not on personal grounds.

The Baseball Magazine sets the pace in choosing all-America teams. It selects this team: Chapman, s. s.; E. Collins, 2b; Speaker, c. f.; Cobb, c. f.; Roush, 1. f.; Sisler, 1b; Zimmerman, 3b; Killifer, c.; Alexander and Johnson, p.

This team, bear in mind, is chosen not on personal opinion, but on playing records. Note also that five of the seven "regulars" are left-handers.

There will be general disposition to cavil at the above all-star team. It is top heavy with left-handers and should be a mark for left-handed pitchers. Most men would choose Schalk or Snyder as catchers instead of Killifer. Yet Killifer batted .271, against the .224 of Schalk and .241 of Snyder. Killifer's arm was a little weak last year but his catching is so good that he can cover up a weak arm.

Honors to Chapman.

There might be some challenge of

the choice of Chapman over Maranville for shortstop. But the records show that Chapman batted .302 to Maranville's .260. Chapman stole 53 bases to Maranville's 25. Chapman leads Cobb in stolen bases, 53 to 51, and Carey, 53 to 51. Next to Cobb Chapman is the best run-scoring on the all-star team. The Cleveland shortstop scored 98 runs to the 107 of Ty Cobb and the 103 of George Burns. Honors clearly go to Chapman among the shortstops.

There will be slight disposition to challenge the propriety of the selections of Cobb, Speaker and Roush for the outfield. These players outthit and outscored all others in their respective leagues. They are the admitted great outfielders of the game. Only one man, George Burns, has any right to compete with them for all-star honors. Burns is a right-hand hitter. The presence of five left-hand batters, Cobb, Speaker, Collins, Sisler and Roush, on the all-star team spoils it. George scored more runs than any man in the game last year, bar Cobb. Of course Burns led off for a great hitting and scoring team. Roush is a beautiful ballplayer. But if we were picking a team on fancy, not records, we'd choose Burns. The all-star team as chosen by the Baseball Magazine lacks a real good lead-off man. Burns is a corking first batter, a great run scorer, a better base runner than Roush. But the Cincinnati has the edge in batting, .342 to .302.

We would be inclined to challenge the choice of Zimmerman over Groh for third base. Plainly, we think that Groh has it over Zimmerman in every way that one ball player can have it on another. Zimmerman outthit Groh just 1 point, .302 to .301. Groh stole more bases than Zimmerman and scored many more runs, 90 to 62, to be exact. Zimmerman was with a much better run-getting club than Groh.

Yes, we challenge the selection of Zimmerman over Groh as third baseman for the all-America team. Groh is entitled to the honor. He hit .001

less than Zim, but he scored twenty-eight more runs in six more games and with a team that was notoriously a poor scoring machine.

### Two New Names.

The Baseball Magazine's all-America team of 1917 shows two new names—George Sisler, first baseman of the St. Louis Americans, and Ed. Roush, center fielder for the Cincinnati Nationals. Killifer is having his first year on an all-star team, but his name has been frequently mentioned for that position. Sisler and Roush are mentioned in connection with an all-star team for the first time.

Thus we find eight of the ten members of the magazine's team are veterans of many years service. Chapman has been 7 years in the major leagues, Collins 10, Speaker 10, Cobb 13, Zimmerman, 11 and Killifer 8. Alexander is a seven-season man and Walter Johnson has finished his eleventh season in the American League.

So, you see, veterans, not recruits, are the stars of the most youthful game in the world. Which proves that the average baseball player is at his best around the age of 32. The average age of the Baseball Magazine's team would be about 30 years and 4 months. Seven of its ten members are 30 or a few years over. Without any doubt Sisler is the youngest man of the lot. He is only 24. Roush would probably come next with 27. Of course, the ages of baseball players are like the ages of the prima donnas—hard to guess and harder to truly ascertain. Every baseball player has two ages, his real and his "official" age. As a rule, the player of 30 looks about three years off his real age. The boys of 25 cut off two years, but it is probable that Cobb, with thirteen seasons in the major leagues, is 33; that Speaker, with his gray hair, is at least 34; that Zim, who was a bearded man ten years ago, is 35. Can Walter Johnson be less than 33, when he has pitched thirteen seasons, eleven of them in the American League?

Ray Chapman has earned his place as the short fielder of the all-America team. His nearest rivals in his own league were Bush, who batted .271, Scott .326, and Peckinpah, .261. Insomuch as Chapman is even a better fielder than either of these players and an incomparably better hitter, the palm goes to the Clevelander. Bush scored more runs, 113, than any man in the American League last year, but he was with an infinitely better hitting and scoring team than Chapman. Bush is older than Chapman. His arm is not so good as that of the Illinoisan. He won't make so many long hits or drive in so many runs with hits. Bush is a short hitter and chiefly a base-on-balls man.

The National League shortstops offer little opposition to Chapman. Maranville, Bancroft and Fletcher are the star short fielders of Gov. Tener's league. We have shown that Maranville cannot hit or run bases or score runs with Chapman. Bancroft is a beautiful fielder, but a negligible quantity as a hitter. Even as a fielder Maranville is the superior of the Philadelphia. Fletcher is a good man in all regards, but at every point, hitting, fielding, running, throwing, Chapman has it on Fletcher. Chapman is just one great all-around player, and clearly deserves the honor of being the shortstop on the all-America team.

In so much as the team as we have chosen it does not boast a really good lead-off man, we select Burns for the

position. Chapman is a good lead-off man, a fine run-getter. We think that Bush is a better lead-off man than Chapman, but Chapman excels Bush in most other ways.

That E. Collins should be the second baseman goes without saying. There is little opposition to Collins in either league. Herzog is the outstanding figure among National League second-sackers. Collins far outthit, outfielded and outscored Herzog in 1917. Collins made a great record in the world's series in fact, in all world's series in which he has played. Second base is his without a quibble. Pratt, his nearest competitor in the American League, had a bad season and cannot be considered.

It might be said here that Collins should be the legitimate selection for the lead-off batter. He objects to that position, in fact to any but third place. So we have him out of lead-off place and station him second on the batting order. Burns is a good enough lead-off man for us.

There cannot be any challenge of the propriety of the selection of Speaker and Cobb. They are far and away above all other outfielders and batters. Only two other outfielders approach Cobb and Speaker in all-around ability. These men are Burns and Roush.

Personally if we were picking a team to win games we'd hesitate a long time between the two players. We do not fancy more than three left-handed hitters on any club. We must have Cobb, Sisler and Speaker and E. Collins in our All-American team. That gives us four left-handed hitters. We cannot use another lest our team be illy balanced.

The records give Roush the best of it over Burns. Yet we have a strong leaning towards the left fielder of the Giants. It may be remarked that the three outfielders picked by the Baseball Magazine are center fielders. Of course we know that Cobb can play right field. But we'd want Speaker for center. Are we sure that Roush can play left field as well as Burns can play it?

Of course any man that can play center as Roush played it should be able to make left to perfection. But Burns has it over Roush and all other outfielders, save Speaker, in one respect—ability to play ground balls.

We are great admirers of Roush. We deem him a beautiful young ball player. Yet Burns is a real sterling player, the soundest man in the game on balls hit to the outfield, bar Speaker.

We hate to drop Roush off an All-American team, but Burns' right hand gets him the place.

The selection of Sisler marks the rise of a brilliant young star and the passing of a lot of veteran luminaries.

Chase was, and to a great extent still is, the greatest of the great. Handsome Hal can still outfield all of them. At his best he could get the position over Sisler. But Chase only hit .279 in 1917, while Sisler batted .348. Hal, however, scored more runs than the Brown star, 70 to 61. Sisler, however, was not on a good run-making team.

### First Basemen Scarce.

On the whole, you may say that there are but two really good first basemen in the American League, and not more than one, Chase, in the National.

This brings us down to the catchers. If you were asked off hand what

catcher you would select for an All-American team, you probably would blurt out, "Schalk."

But Killifer outthit Schalk, .271 to .224. What are you going to do about that? Killifer's arm never has been good since it was hurt in 1916 but it is good enough to stop runners. Then Schalk fell down in the world's series.

Many people would pick Frank Snyder of the Cardinals a great big fellow a tremendous catcher in 1915. But Snyder had a bad season in 1916 and another bad season in 1917 until the middle of August. Then he got out and played ball. However he batted but .243 and he is slow as molasses on his feet.

No the Baseball Magazine picked it right when it chose Killifer. He has the figures to show that he was the best catcher in America in 1917.

### Johnson's Record Average.

Which fetches us to the pitcher. There will be no discussion of the entire propriety of choosing Alexander. Wilbur Cooper of the Pittsburgh team had, comparatively speaking, as good a record as big Alex. last year but Cooper has not got the "stuff" nor the winning record that the Philadelphia has got. Only one club won more games from Alexander than he won from it last season. New York won three games from and lost two games to Alex. in 1917. He cleaned up all the others. He beat St. Louis four games and lost three to Rickey's team. He won three from Boston and lost two to the same club. He won seven or eight games from Chicago and six of seven from Brooklyn. He won four of five from Cincinnati. Sallee won more games from each opposing club than he lost to it, but his victories were not at all so numerous as those of Alexander. Then Schupp and Sallee had the great New York club behind them, while Alexander had very moderate support from the Phillies. Alexander pitched forty-three games, while Schupp and Sallee pitched only fifty-four between them.

The Baseball Magazine assumes to select the All-Americans on their records. It is difficult to see how they

choose Walter Johnson on record. He won twenty-three and lost sixteen games. Cicotte won twenty-eight and lost twelve games. Bagby of Cleveland won twenty-four and lost twelve. Ruth won twenty-four and lost thirteen. Mays of Boston really had the best record of all, with twenty-two won and nine lost. Johnson's record against all clubs but Detroit was very average. He won six of eight games pitched against Detroit. Boston beat Johnson in three of five games. Chicago broke even, three to three. New York beat him on three of five occasions. Mays did not lose a series to any club. Only one club, Washington, succeeded in breaking even with Mays. He beat Chicago in four of four games. Cleveland and Detroit in four of five games. New York in three of four games. This is a better record than that of any other man save Sallee.

While Sallee won more games from each club than he lost to it, he did not score the overwhelming majorities Mays scored. Nor did Sallee pitch anywhere the number of games Mays pitched. No, in figures, Mays, not Johnson, is the premier pitcher, not only of the American League, but of all other leagues. We do not care about underhand pitchers, but Mays has the figures. He must be our choice for the All-American team. May's decisive majorities of games won over Chicago and Cleveland, the two clubs that were Boston's closest contenders in the American League race, marks him as the pitcher of the year. So we must reject the selection of the Baseball Magazine and choose Mays instead of Johnson and referee Alexander as the first pitcher of our All-American team.



When you have a new idea, don't, for mercy's sake, trot right off to your friends and tell them about it. They might die of shock.

